The Music Lover's Guide

To the Breck Music Hall, heard every Thursday evening at 8:00.

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PROGRAM NOTES

The classical and the post-romantic age vie for honors on the program of April 24. Haydn's Symphony No. 88 in G Major (No. 13 in some lists) is a work of characteristic bubbling grace, with a finale containing some of music's most humorous effects. The Tchaikowsky Piano Concerto needs no introduction to lovers of either classical *or* popular music; merely let us say that it is music whose greatness exceeds even its popularity.

Music of Russia, Italy, and Finland will be heard on May 1. Rossini's comic opera La Scala di Seta (The Silken Ladder) would be completely forgotten today were it not for the lively, melodious overture. Liadow's Enchanted Lake is a misty descriptive tone poem, describing the atmosphere surrounding a lake famous in Russian lore. Jan Sibelius' First Symphony is an early work, written before the composer's style had completely crystallized. However, there are elements in this music which already stamp its composer as the great symphonic genius we know today.

Mendelssohn's Third or "Scotch" Symphony is the featured work on May 8. On his extended tour through Scotland, Mendelssohn was particularly impressed with the atmosphere of gloom and mystery surrounding the famous Holyrood Castle. He writes that the Scotch Symphony is an attempt to translate this impression into music. Also on the program is the dramatic Rhine Journey Music from Wagner's Die Gotterdammerung, the music describing Siegfried's Journey down the Rhine to earn his spurs with deeds of valor.

May 15 brings a performance of Richard Strauss' magnificent tone poem Don Quixote. Considered by many to be Strauss' finest work, Don Quixote takes Cervantes' hero through many fantastic adventures, ending with his partial return to sanity and his peaceful death. The solo cello is the voice of the redoubtable knight, and the viola is his faithful but bewildered companion, Sancho Panza. Also featured is Rossini's Semiramide Overture. This overture is a large scale work, although there is little in the music to suggest that the opera was Rossini's most noble tragedy.

Beethoven's lovely Sixth, or Pastoral Symphony is featured on May 22. This work is unique in Beethoven's output; the spirit of relaxation and good cheer is stronger here than in any other symphony. With devices calculated to produce the effect of monotony, Beethoven captures the very essence of peaceful country life. Liszt's Mephisto Waltz, which shares the program, is rural music of another sort: a fantastic village dance based on an episode from Lenau's Faust, with Mephistopheles himself playing the fiddle and calling the steps.

THE BRECK MUSIC HALL

Thursday **April 24, 1947**

Haydn.....Symphony No. 88 in G Major
Tchaikowsky...Piano Concerto, B Flat Minor

Thursday **May 1, 1947**

Rossini.....Overture, "La Scala di Seta"
Liadow.....The Enchanted Lake
Sibelius.....Symphony No. 1 in E Minor

Thursday **May 8, 1947**

Glinka.....Overture, "Russlan and Ludmilla"
Mendelssohn...Symphony No. 3 in A Minor
Wagner.....Siegfried's Rhine Journey
(From "Die Götterdammerung")

Thursday **May 15, 1947**

Rossini.....Overture, "Semiramide"
Strauss.....Don Quixote

Thursday **May 22, 1947**

Liszt.....Mephisto Waltz
Beethoven.....Symphony No. 6 in F Major